

polarization states; and

a polarization medium positioned in proximal relation to the laser source element for selecting and attenuating each of the at least two polarization states equally or substantially equally.

4. (Amended) The source of Claim 3, wherein said laser source element has

multiple distinct polarization states oriented with respect to one another at angular intervals.

5. (Amended) The source of Claim 4, wherein said polarization medium is

aligned to provide linear polarization along an axis that equally selects and attenuates the distinct polarization states.

9. (Amended) The source of Claim 8, wherein said laser source element has two

distinct polarization states that are normal to one another.

10. (Amended) The source of Claim 9, wherein said polarization medium is

aligned to provide linear polarization along an axis that is at about 45 degrees to both distinct polarization states.

15. (Amended) A method for VCSEL polarization control comprising the steps of:

providing a VCSEL element that produces a light output that has one and/or both of at least two polarization states;

providing a polarization medium; and

positioning the polarization medium in proximal relation to the VCSEL element to select and attenuate each of the at least two polarization states equally or substantially equally.

17. (Amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein the step of providing a VCSEL

element further comprises providing a VCSEL element having two distinct polarization states

that are normal to one another.

*Q* 18. (Amended) The method of Claim 17, wherein the polarization medium is aligned to provide linear polarization along an axis that is at about 45 degrees to both distinct polarization states.

*Q* 20. (Amended) A vertical cavity surface emitting laser component comprising: a package base, having a first self-aligning feature formed therein for indicating an alignment axis, the alignment axis not necessarily being in-line with the self-aligning feature;

*Q* a vertical cavity surface emitting laser device, having at least two emission polarization states normal to one another, disposed adjacent the package base and aligned such that each emission polarization state is at about 45 degrees with respect to the alignment axis;

a package cover, having a second self-aligning feature and an upper surface aperture formed therein, coupled to the package base such that the first and second self-aligning features matingly engage; and

a linear polarization element, having a polarization direction, spanning the aperture and disposed such that the polarization direction is parallel or substantially parallel to the alignment axis.

*Q* 21. (Newly Presented) A polarization controlled optical energy source comprising: a laser source element for producing a light output that has one and/or both of at least two polarization states; and polarization means for selecting and attenuating each of the at least two polarization states equally.

22. (Newly Presented) A method for providing a relatively constant light intensity output from a light source that produces a light beam that has at least two polarization states, the method comprising the steps of: